district of Gujarat and for increasing the reservation quota in various trains; and

(b) if so, what directions Government propose to give in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received a representation from Shri Narainbhai Patel, Minister of State for Transport, Government of Gujarat.

(b) Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These facilities are, therefore, provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Onjha Station is not high enough to qualify for provision of a computerised reservation centre even under the recently liberalized policy of this Ministry.

The existing quota provided at Onjha Nagar Station is not being fully utilized. Therefore, it is considered sufficient to meet the demand of the passengers.

Exchange of railways expertise for crude oil with Iraq

2195. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to trade building expertise of the Railways with Iraq in exchange for crude oil;

(b) if so, the number of rail projects to be taken up in that country;

(c) whether in view of UN sanctions against Iraq, waiver has been obtained from UN; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Government of Iraq covering various aspects of cooperation in Railway Sectors such as New Railway projects. Sky Bus Metro, Sleeper Factory, Exchange of expertise & training. Supply of services, material & equipments etc. However, there is no specific proposal to trade building expertise with Iraq in exchange of crude oil.

(c) and (d) The matter has been referred to Ministry of External Affairs to take up this issue at the UN, if considered appropriate.

Conversion of Mundra-Kandla rail line

2196. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Mundra-Kandla rail line into broadgauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Broad Gauge Line from Mundra Port to Adipur has been recently completed by M/s. Gujarat Adani Port Ltd. at their cost. Adipur and Kandla Port are already connected by a broad gauge line. However, an MG line also exists between Gandhidham and Kandla port of which conversion is not required from traffic point of view at present.

Chair car facility in August Kranti Rajdhani Express

†2197. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawing Chair Car facility from August Kranti Rajdhani Express, running between Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) whether Government are considering to resume Chair Car facility in the said train; and

(c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) In view of over-night travel and long hours of journey, there were frequent complaints from passengers of discomfort in AC Chair Car coaches. Railways started production of AC 3 Tier coaches in which nearly same number of berths were available as the number of seats in the Chair

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.